

instrumental in electing candidates to State and Federal offices. Community members have begun to occupy visible positions themselves, as chaplains in the military and as law enforcement officials.

I move to insert the Washington Times article "Muslims urged to play part in politics" from June 28, 1998 in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to honor the value American Muslim participation adds to our political system.

It greatly concerns me, that in a nation that prides itself on religious freedom and values religious diversity, that many American Muslims are stereotyped by the media and even government officials as terrorists or likely terrorists. The vast majority of American Muslims embody the American Dream, are loyal to our flag, and are substantial contributing members to our communities. I am proud to represent so many Muslims and proud of their achievements in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in commending the American Muslim community for their efforts to become more politically involved. Their increasingly active community serves as a wonderful example to all Americans.

**MUSLIMS URGED TO PLAY PART IN POLITICS
END OF ISOLATION IS CALLED A MUST**
(By Larry Witham)

As a politically-conscious Muslim, M.M. Ali shows up at both Democratic and Republican meetings in Northern Virginia but finds himself "the lone person from my part of the world."

The absence of Muslims from civic and political life may still be the rule in the United States, except where they make up a large voting block, speakers said at the annual national meeting yesterday of the American Muslim Council (AMC).

"It is unwise, as some of us do, to live in islands of isolation," Mr. Ali told the event, which drew nearly 1,000 participants from across the country. "Mainstreaming is the only viable way to rise up and be counted."

A main focus of the second annual Washington meeting of the council, formed in 1990 as the leading policy and lobbying group for Muslims, is to encourage more political involvement and to fight defamation.

Muslims now serve as chaplains in the military, one is a state senator in North Carolina, and others work for the FBI and attorneys general. Politicians, moreover, go to their mosques and write resolutions to recognize their festivals.

Yet the financially based political clout of other minorities—such as Jews, Greeks, Hispanics and blacks—is not yet a tool of an estimated 5 million Muslims nationwide, divided roughly in half between immigrants and blacks.

Khalil Munir, a former congressional staffer, said he witnessed how lack of money prompted three lawmakers he campaigned for in Brooklyn, N.Y., to overlook voters of the Islamic faith.

"When election time came, they knew they did not have to be accountable to the Muslim people," he said.

He and other speakers said Muslims must pool their money, earmark it for favorite lawmakers, do volunteer work and serve the community in civic roles.

One success story, said Randa Fagmy, a foreign policy and legal affairs aide for Sen. Spencer Abraham, Michigan Republican, was his narrow election victory on a Muslim swing vote.

Mr. Abraham, the only Arab-American in the Senate, was bolstered by a registration campaign among Muslims and a telephone

network that urged them to vote on Election Day, she said.

"Encourage your kids to go into politics as a profession," Mrs. Fahmy said.

New Jersey's 350,000 Muslim families also were instrumental in electing one local official and one senator in recent years, said Morad Aboud Sabe, president of the Arab American League of Voters of the state.

"It's time for the Muslim community to produce its own candidates from within," Mr. Sabe said, noting that such civic involvement must start with the second generation at an early age.

While one political concern of Muslim activists may be U.S. foreign policy toward their homelands, the priority at the AMC meeting was protection of Muslim families from harassment, media abuse or obstacles in public schools.

On Friday, FBI Director Louis Freeh was scheduled to address the group at a meeting in the Hart Senate Office Building, but he canceled and instead sent Brekke Tron, head of the FBI's civil rights program.

"I was not satisfied with the director not showing up," AMC Secretary Abdurahman Alamoudi said. He acknowledged the tension between FBI efforts to stop terrorism and American Muslim concerns about suffering from guilt by association.

Despite the director's absence, "we broke the myth of the FBI in our Muslim community," Mr. Alamoudi said. "The public meeting was a milestone."

After Mr. Tron gave a presentation on FBI enforcement ethics and efforts to work with all ethnic groups, three Muslim representatives recounted cases in which law enforcement agents violated the civil rights of that group.

**THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE
PROCESS**

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 5, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, last week, Jews all over the world celebrated the most solemn day of their religious calendar, Yom Kippur. After twenty-four hours of fasting, prayer, and reflection, the shofar is sounded and worshippers call out, "Next Year in Jerusalem." I know that I speak for my constituents and all Americans—Jews and non Jews alike—who fervently hope that the coming year will bring peace in Jerusalem and throughout the Middle East.

Achieving peace between Israel and the Palestinians and neighboring Arab states is clearly in U.S. national interest. A stable Middle East will not only reduce military risks, but will enhance the economic vitality of the region and indeed the world. A failed peace process, sadly, will bring economic disruptions, terrorism, and even war. We simply cannot allow the enemies of peace to prevail.

Mr. Speaker, it is a historical reality that active, direct U.S. involvement, at the highest levels, is an indispensable ingredient to Middle East peace. This was especially true when the Camp David Accords led to a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. U.S. leadership also helped Israel and the Palestinians begin implementing the historic Oslo accord.

Over the past several months, the progress made at Oslo has slowed. That is why I was very heartened that the Administration has in-

tensified its work on this issue. Under U.S. auspices, Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat met on September 28. At this meeting, it appears that significant progress was made toward resolving the remaining differences that are keeping the parties from concluding the next agreement. And it is clear that this important step forward occurred because the President has again made a Middle East peace agreement one of his foremost foreign policy priorities.

Mr. Speaker, as this session of Congress races to a close, I urge my colleagues to support the Middle East peace process. I hope my colleagues will join me in encouraging the President to continue his active involvement. I also hope that Members of Congress will urge both Israel and the Palestinians to avoid unilateral actions which could disrupt the thoughtful negotiations that seem to be headed toward an important breakthrough.

**COMPETITION IN THE ELECTRONIC
MARKETPLACE**

HON. STEVE LARGENT

OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, October 5, 1998

Mr. LARGENT. Mr. Speaker, within the next few weeks, a lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice and 20 state attorneys general to protect competition in the electronic marketplace will go to trial.

The decision in this matter may define the development of the digital economy. And apart from the upcoming trial, Congress may be required to sort through the issues raised in this case, either in legislation or through additional hearing. In a month when Members of Congress are faced with many other critical issues, we should pay close attention to these proceedings.

It is the interest of the American people for the Internet—the most important new marketplace to come along in decades—to develop in an atmosphere that promotes innovation by the thousands of software and online service companies across America.

These electronic entrepreneurs have been one of the driving forces in the prolonged period of economic growth we have enjoyed in recent years. While I am usually a strong advocate for keeping the government out of the marketplace, there is too much at stake in the future of the Internet to run the risk that innovation will be stifled.

Mistakes made today in maintaining competition could provide the justification down the road for unnecessary government regulation. Our economy and the public will be better served if these concerns are addressed today through efforts that fall short of regulation. While we should not rush to final judgement before a trial has been held, there is clearly ample reason for the Justice Department case to go forward.

We are a nation governed by laws, not emotions. And regardless of the feelings some of us may have toward certain companies or the Department of Justice, we must make sure that our laws are being followed, and that the public interest is being protected.

The scheduled trial is necessary to ensure that the law is being followed and that electronic commerce will continue to develop to